1813
1913

Sisters of St. Joseph
of Rutland, Vermont

This booklet is presented at the close of our Centenary Year with the hope that it will help us to reflect on our past and present as Sisters of St. Joseph of Rutland, Vermont. At the same time, may it serve as a memento for ourselves and those who come after us in the future.

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.

--Langston Hughes

As we come to the close of the celebration of our Centenary Year in Vermont, it is with gratitude that we look to the past, with trust and faith that we look to the present, and with hope that we view the future.

In this Centennial Year, it is well to present a short resume of our history. For in the past we find our origins and roots, as well as our identity, which is ever ongoing.

History

The Sisters of St. Joseph date the foundation of their congregation to October 15, 1650, when Rev. Jean Pierre Medaille, S.J., with the sanction of Bishop Henri de Maupas, established the first house of the community in LePuy, France. Founded to be an active order, the following excerpt is taken from the Universal Directory at the time of our beginnings:

> "The Sisters of St. Joseph have been successful in their schools; they also devote themselves to the care of the sick and needy, attending to their spiritual and temporal wants."

During the French Revolution, the Sisters were dispersed; many of them suffered martyrdom. Following the fall of Robiespierre, the Sisters set forth anew in their apostolate under the guidance of Mother St. John Fontbonne of Monistrol, who reunited the congregation.

Following that reunion, four dates are especially significant to our Vermont community: 1836, when Mother St. John sent six Sisters from Lyons, France, to Carondelet, Missouri, at the request of Bishop Rosati; 1847, when the Carondelet foundation expanded and sent Sisters to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; 1851, when Sisters from Philadelphia arrived in New York and opened a convent in Brooklyn; and 1873, when Sisters from Flushing, Long Island, arrived in Vermont. They came as volunteers at the request of Rev. Charles Boylan, pastor of St. Peter's parish in Rutland. According to their Annals, in 1873, Mother Austin - with four other Sisters - first "saw the breathtaking away Mountains that almost reached the sky."

The Sisters lived in a small frame house on Meadow Street, and first taught school in nearby Old St. Peter's Church. School began on September 15, 1873.

On August 17, 1875, Bishop DeGoesbriand asked for a separation of the foundation in Vermont from Flushing and asked for a Novitiate for the Sisters in Rutland. Ground was broken for the present Motherhouse on July 4, 1876. The cornerstone was laid in 1879, and the Sisters moved into their new Motherhouse on February 2, 1882. That fall, Mt. St. Joseph Academy opened. In that same year, 1882, St. Peter's parish began the building of the new St. Peter's School, which the Sisters staffed when it opened in 1883 until its closing in 1972 (Grades 1-6) and 1973 (Grades

7-8). In 1875, the Sisters of Rutland replaced the Sisters from Flushing, who were teaching at St. Michael's School in Brattleboro, Vermont. The forerunner to the present Christ the King School was staffed by the Sisters in 1886.

Other schools and missions of the Rutland Sisters were in Whitehall, N.Y., 1887-1892; in Connelsville, Pennsylvania, 1908-1913; in Bennington, Vermont: St. Francis de Sales School, 1876-1970; Sacred Heart School, 1893; St. Joseph Business School, which is now St. Joseph College, 1925; Bennington Catholic High School, 1954-1967; in Bellows Falls, Vermont, St. Charles School, 1913-1972; in Brattleboro, Vermont, St. Michael's High School, 1928-1968; Fair Haven, Vermont, St. Mary's School, 1942-1970; White River Junction, Vermont, St. Anthony's Kindergarten and Catechetical Center, 1948-1972.

The Loretto Home for the Aged was staffed by the Sisters from 1903 until 1954. (Presently, Loretto Home is staffed by the Daughters of Charity of the Sacred Heart.) The "new" Mt. St. Joseph Academy building was built in 1927, with an addition in 1958. In 1952 was established St. Joseph Teacher's College, now the College of St. Joseph the Provider.

As well as teaching in these schools, the Sisters have served as catechists in these areas and their environs.

No history of the Sisters of St.Joseph of Vermont would be complete without mention of those who, from the earliest foundations in 1873, have been guides of the religious community. They are the following:

Mother Mary Austin (1873-1876)
Mother Mary Philip (1876-1894)
Mother Mary Peter (1894-1903)
Mother St. Charles (1903-1906)
Mother Mary Agnes (1906-1920)
Mother Mary Columba (1921-1936)
Mother Mary Josephine (1936-1942)
Mother Mary Columba (1942-1945)
Mother Mary Regis (1945-1951)
Mother Mary Gabriel (1951-1957)
Mother Mary Concepta (1957-1966)
Sister Nora Scribner (1966-1972)
Sister Elizabeth Marie (1972-)

The epigraph to this article consists of Langston Hughes' poem concerning dreams. We, as the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rutland, see how much dreams for the present and of the future must have sustained all in our past from Father Jean Pierre Medaille, to Mother St. John, to our pioneer Sisters, down to our communal and personal dreams at the close of this, our Centenary Year in Vermont. This year has marked a year of celebration and a year of renewal. Again, let us look with gratitude to the past, with faith to the present, and with hope to the future. In doing this, we can trust in the continued patronage of St. Joseph to whom God often spoke in dreams. Let us serve the Lord with joy today and look confidently in Him to tomorrow remembering that "To those who love God, all things work together unto good."

--Sister Mary Harvey, S.S.J.

Dedicated to
THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH
OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
by one of their own

YESTERDAY'S FOOTSTEPS
(1873-1973)

They came with eager steps
In answer to His call
To spread His word
To teach His young
To aid His poor
To visit His sick
To prepare His banquet table
In Vermont.

To Rutland
To Bellows Falls
To Brattleboro
To Bennington,
Fair Haven and White River
And, yes,
To Connellsville, Pennsylvania,
they went.

Why?
Because they believed
In helping others
They were serving Him.

Many footsteps now lie silent
Their path others follow on
In changing times
In different modes
Eager still and willing

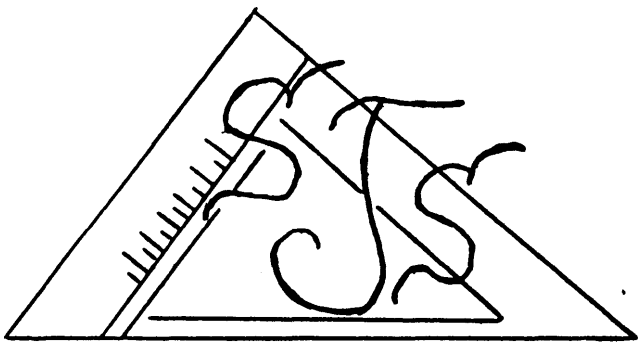
So -

In the echo of Yesterday's Footsteps
We, the Sisters of St. Joseph, today
Though few -
Serve Him still.

The need is here
To teach His young
To comfort His sick
To aid His poor
To light the candle
Of faith in a darkened world
Of war and sin and fear.

Pray God we, too, persevere.

--Sister Anna Marie, S.S.J.
April 9, 1973



Apostolate and Works

The apostolate of the Sisters of St. Joseph is to be reconcilers, bringing about unity "of all people with God, with herself, and among themselves." In any situation, at any time, in any works whatever, this apostolate is possible. The Sisters of St. Joseph practice reconciliation in a variety of works.

The primary work of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rutland, Vermont, since their arrival in 1873 has been that of the Christian education of youth. Schools which presently have the Sisters of St. Joseph on their staffs are the following:

Campus Nursery School at the College of St. Joseph the Provider, Rutland, Vt.
Christ the King School, Rutland, Vt.
College of St. Joseph the Provider, Rutland, Vt.
Mt. St. Joseph Academy, Rutland, Vt.
Mt. St. Joseph Kindergarten, Rutland, Vt.
Mt. St. Joseph Junior High School, Rutland, Vt.
Sacred Heart School, Bennington, Vt.
St. Joseph College, Bennington, Vt.
St. Michael's School, Brattleboro, Vt.

In addition to working in the parochial schools and Catholic colleges of Vermont, some of our Sisters are engaged in the following areas:

adult education, working as assistants in rectories, assisting in the spiritual and physical care of patients at the Brattleboro Retreat, caring for and instructing children at Brandon Training School, caring for the elderly, main-

taining a ceramics workshop, a copper-enameling workshop, and a religious articles store, music instruction, office work, parish ministry, physical education instruction, preparing for the annual bazaar, private tutoring, teaching in a private university, teaching in public schools, staffing religious education centers, serving as supervisor of elementary education in the public school system, teaching in a specialized reading program, supplying altar breads for the parishes, and working in special education.

We should also mention the work of the Sisters within the community in food services, housekeeping, care of the sick, and in administration.

Lastly, those Sisters who contribute to the community works by their continuing prayers are performing an essential service. Furthermore, one never retires from the apostolate of reconciliation, and prayer is its most powerful aid.

Renewal after Vatican II

In keeping with the exhortation of Vatican II that we be mindful of the Gospel vision and the vision of our founder, the Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph sponsored a team of Sisters of St. Joseph to work for a summer in 1969 in France with Father Marius Nepper, S.J., who had been researching the life and works of Father Jean Pierre Medaille, our founder, for many years.

This team returned to the United States with a distillation of Father Medaille's thought which they called the Consensus Statement. The team visited congregations in the United States to explain the summer's work. Some members of the team visited with the Rutland community in 1970.

CONSENSUS STATEMENT OF THE CENTRAL IDEAS
of
JEAN-PIERRE MEDAILLE, S.J.

Stimulated by the Holy Spirit of Love and
receptive to His inspirations
the Sister of St. Joseph moves always
towards
profound love of God
and
love of neighbor without distinction

from whom she does not separate herself
and
for whom, in the following of Christ,
she works in order to achieve unity
both of neighbor with neighbor
and neighbor with God
directly in this apostolate
and
indirectly through works of charity

in humility - the spirit of the Incarnate Word
(Philippians 2:5-11)
in sincere charity - the manner of St. Joseph
whose name she bears
in an Ignatian-Salesian climate: that is, with
an orientation towards excellence

tempered by gentleness, peace, joy.

In the light of the Gospel message and the Consensus Statement and mindful of the needs of the people of God today, the apostolate of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the 1970's emerges as an apostolate of reconciliation to which the congregations of the Sisters of St. Joseph seek to respond. On the local level and on the federation level, the idea of Sisters of St. Joseph being women of reconciliation has been and is being developed.

Another facet of the renewal process in which the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rutland have been engaged has been the compiling of a Book of Directives by the Special Chapter of Renewal of 1970. Following this Chapter, there was an evaluative Chapter of Affairs in 1972, at which time some changes and additions were included in a supplement to the Directives.

In December of 1972, the Chapter approved a community-wide project on Consecration by which, through interviews and written statements in answer to some questions, a body of material was gathered from community members and then distilled into a statement on Consecration which was presented to the community in May and accepted by the Chapter when it met in the summer of 1973.

The Consecration Statement follows:

> "We, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rutland, Vermont, see our religious consecration as that extension of our baptismal commitment by which, because of an intimate relationship with God, we totally dedicate our being to Him through the vows in a loving religious community, giving a corporate witness of the Good News in the wholehearted service of God and of neighbor."

The Chapter of 1973 set as the community task for the years 1973-1975 a study of the vows. With God's help, we trust that this study will help each Sister in the community to deepen her love of God and neighbor.

Activities of the Centenary Year

During our Centenary Year many special events took place in the spirit of celebration and of renewal. Although coincidental, it was appropriate that through the months of January through May, work was done by a team of interviewers and individual community members on Project "Consecration." Also, during the fall months the study on the vows was begun.

The Centenary Calendar throughout the year read as follows:

February 3-4 = Mt. St. Joseph Academy Senior Play, "Lilies of the Field," which was dedicated to our Centenary

March 17 = Concert presented for the members of the community at Mt. St. Joseph Convent by John D. Donoghue

March 19 = St. Joseph's Day

April 7 = A public lecture given on "Prayer in the Secular City," by Rev. George Maloney, S.J., at Mt. St. Joseph Academy

April 8 = A series of conferences on prayer given to the Sisters at Mt. St. Joseph Convent by Father Maloney

April 29 = A banquet held at the College of St. Joseph the Provider for the congregation

May 12 = The Sisters of St. Joseph honored by the Alumni of St. Joseph College, Bennington

May 15 = A public lecture on the topic "The Irrelevancy of Jesus," given by Rev. Andrew Greeley at the College of St. Joseph the Provider

June 10 = A liturgy, followed by a banquet and reception given to the congregation by St. Michael's parish in Brattleboro

June 17 = Liturgy and picnic at Holy Cross Novitiate honoring the Sisters who taught at Sacred Heart School, Bennington

July 1 = Sisters invited to participate in the Centenary celebration of St. Peter's Church, Rutland, by attending Mass and dinner

July 21 = Vermont Symphony Orchestra da Camera sponsored by the congregation and presented at the College of St. Joseph the Provider

November 4 = Organ recital presented by Sister Mary Costello in honor of the Centenary of St. Peter's Church and the Centenary of the Sisters of St. Joseph

November 24 = A Mass offered for the deceased Sisters of the congregation in Mt. St. Joseph Convent Chapel

December 31 = Day of Celebration marking the close of the Centenary Year:
Day of Recollection = Rev. Thomas Barrosse, C.S.C.
Mass offered by Bishop John Marshall
Dinner

January 17, 1974 = Dinner for all Sisters who are former members of Christ the King parish, Rutland, or who are present or past teachers at Christ the King School

Mass for all Sisters of St. Joseph at Christ the King Church, followed by reception at parish hall.

CENTENARY COMMITTEE

The community is grateful to the members of the centenary committee and to all the other Sisters who worked many hours on the programs for the centenary year. Centenary committee members were:

Sister Gertrude Conway
Sister Mary Polworth
Sister Madonna Therese
Sister Geraldine White

THOUGHTS ON OUR CENTENARY
(1873-1973)

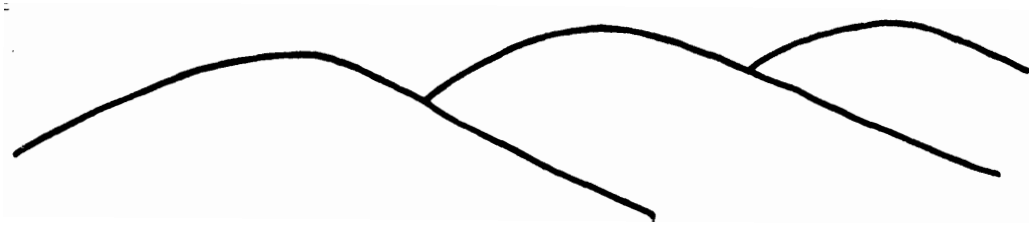
Coming in 1873 at the request of the missionary
priest
The pioneer Sisters of St. Joseph first glimpsed
"The breath-taking away Mountains that almost
reached the sky,"
As their annals record.
They came too as missionaries
To this land of "Green Mountains" of which the
explorer Champlain likewise exclaimed
Over two hundred years before.

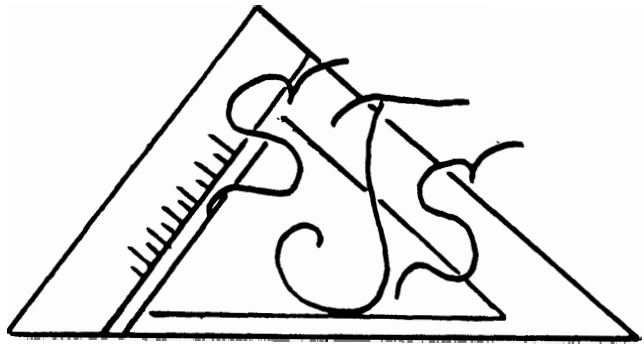
They came to teach
And in 1876 a diocesan congregation was established
And patterns have lingered for one hundred years
And have grown.

Patterns of community,
Patterns of loving labor,
Patterns of building
Of wood, brick, mortar, stone.
Patterns of patience and prayer,
Of tears, laughter, light, leaven, and song.

These patterns are woven today
Into a multi-colored cloak of hope
On a background of mountain green,
To be worn with grace and joy into the future
Where added patterns will emerge
Fabric of the whole.
Yesterday,
Today,
Tomorrow -
In union with Him
The Alpha and Omega,
Through time and eternity.

--Sister Mary Harvey, S.S.J.
November 30, 1973





1873
1973

Sisters of St. Joseph
of Rutland, Vermont

There are in the end three things that last:

faith,

hope,

and

love -

and the greatest of these is love."

(1 Cor. 13:13)

DECEASED SISTERS
December 1, 1973

Sister M. Loretto - 12/23/84
Sister M. Magdalen - 9/22/86
Sister M. Ignatius - 9/26/86
Sister M. Veronica - 3/21/92
Sister M. Evangelista - 5/5/92
Sister M. Joseph - 1/13/93
Sister M. Clotilda - 9/19/93
Sister M. Anastatia - 3/16/94
Sister M. Magdalen - 8/16/95
Mother M. Philip - 10/20/96
Sister M. Louis - 10/26/97
Sister M. Vincent - 2/7/99
Sister M. Emiliana - 6/14/00
Sister M. Alacoque - 6/16/00
Sister M. John - 10/25/01
Sister M. Aloysius - 9/10/03
Sister St. Michael - 6/21/05
Sister M. Antoinette - 6/28/06
Sister M. Ambrose - 12/3/06
Sister M. Susan - 3/19/09
Sister Francis Borgia - 12/2/11
Sister M. Leo - 2/7/15
Sister M. Monica - 4/13/17
Sister M. Febronia - 8/15/19
Sister M. Dominica - 9/21/19
Sister M. St. Joseph - 1/18/23
Sister M. Veronica - 4/3/26
Sister M. Helena - 7/23/26
Sister M. Raymond - 5/20/27
Sister M. Joseph - 4/18/28
Sister M. Brigid - 12/23/28
52. Sister M. Miriam - 1/2/29

Sister M. Berchmans - 8/18/29
Sister M. Eugenia - 9/2/29
Sister M. Marcella - 9/9/29
Sister M. Consuella - 9/9/29
Sister M. Delphine - 9/20/29
Sister M. Lucina - 11/25/29
Sister M. Teresa - 3/13/30
Sister M. Margaret - 11/6/30
Sister M. Ligouri - 2/1/32
Sister M. Ursula - 12/18/32
Sister M. Gertrude - 6/23/33
Sister M. Elizabeth - 12/23/34
Sister St. Thomas - 4/23/36
Sister M. Celestine - 7/10/36
Mother St. Charles - 1/24/39
Sister M. Augusta - 7/6/39
Sister M. Patrick - 8/19/39
Sister M. Cecilia - 8/2/40
Sister M. Claude - 8/22/40
Sister M. Julia - 4/14/41
Sister M. Benignus - 8/8/41
Sister M. Martin - 11/22/43
Sister M. St. Roch - 6/19/44
Sister M. Celine - 3/19/45
Sister St. Mark - 6/12/45
Sister M. Genevieve - 11/26/45
Sister M. Catherine - 12/24/46
Mother M. Columba - 2/7/48
Sister M. Peter - 2/15/49
Sister M. Immaculata - 3/24/50
Sister M. Clare - 3/19/52
64. Sister M. DeSales - 4/12/52

Sister M. Alphonsus - 5/4/53
Sister M. Felicitas - 5/14/53
Sister M. Xavier - 2/7/54
Sister M. Angelica - 3/24/54
Sister M. Bernardine - 1/5/55
Sister M. Stephen - 8/5/55
Mother M. Agnes - 4/5/56
Sister M. Raphael - 11/5/56
Sister M. Anthony - 5/13/58
Sister M. Francis - 10/6/58
Sister Mary - 4/14/59
Sister M. Philip - 8/30/59
Mother M. Josephine - 10/24/59
Sister M. Lawrence - 11/4/59
Sister St. Edward - 1/9/60
Sister M. James - 12/17/60
Sister M. Ignatius - 9/26/61
Sister M. Basil - 3/15/62
Sister M. Chrysostom - 9/14/62
Sister M. Dolores - 2/27/63
Sister M. Bernard - 1/25/66
Sister M. Cyril - 9/15/66
Sister M. Loretto - 12/3/66
Sister M. Rita - 12/5/67
Sister M. Oswald - 12/1/68
Sister M. Jerome - 12/6/69
Sister M. Anna - 9/21/70
Mother M. Regis - 4/23/71
Sister M. Rose - 11/28/71
Sister M. Regina - 1/14/73
Sister M. Martina - 7/5/73
96 Sister M. Sebastian - 10/27/73

MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY
December 1, 1973

1 Sister Elizabeth Marie
2 Sister M. Benedict
3 Sister M. Michael
4 Sister M. Irene
5 Sister M. Albertine
6 Sister M. Clementine
7 Sister M. Eucharia
8 ~~Sister M. Carmel~~ 1974
9 Sister Marie Louise
10 Sister M. Evangelist
11 Sister M. DeChantal
12 Sister M. Vincent
13 Sister M. Ambrose
14 Sister M. Magdalen
15 Sister M. Aloysius
16 Sister M. Andrew
17 Sister M. Gabriel
18 Sister St. John
19 Sister M. Stanislaus
20 Sister M. Clotilda
21 Sister M. Edward
22 Sister St. Hilary
23 Sister M. Sylvester
24 Sister Margaret Mary
25 Sister Agnes Marie
26 Sister Jane Frances
27 Sister Marie Therese
28 Sister M. Barbara
29 Sister M. Matthew
30 Sister St. George
31 Sister M. Imelda
32 Sister M. Emmanuel
33 Sister M. Assumpta
34 Sister M. Concepta

35. Sister M. Paul
36. Sister Evelyn Blair
37. Sister Mary Costello
38. Sister M. Malachy
39. Sister M. Brendan
40. Sister M. Victorine
41. Sister M. Thecla
42. Sister M. Annunciata
43. Sister Marion Rose
44. Sister Stella Marie
45. Sister M. Dominica
46. Sister St. Anthony
47. Sister Joan Elizabeth
48. Sister Miriam Teresa
49. Sister St. Michael
50. Sister Cecilia Marie
51. Sister Ruth Graystone
52. Sister Rose Mary
53. Sister M. Thomas
54. Sister M. Veronica
55. Sister M. Monica
56. Sister M. Pauline
57. Sister M. Margaret
58. Sister M. Christine
59. Sister Nora Scribner
60. Sister Helen Regula
61. Sister M. Dorothy
62. Sister Anna Marie
63. Sister M. Cephas
64. Sister M. Martha
65. Sister Catherine Costello
66. Sister M. Beatrice
67. Sister M. Purissima
68. Sister M. Brigid
69. Sister Stella Burke
70. Sister Ann Francis
71. Sister Palma Giorgianni

72 Sister St. Gerard
73 Sister Ellen Therese
74 Sister M. Virginia
75 Sister Jean Marie
76 Sister M. Ancilla
77 Sister M. Justin
78 Sister M. Elizabeth
79 Sister Dorothy Clemente
80 Sister M. Fidelis
81 Sister Rita Marie
82 Sister Julia Marie
83 Sister Miriam
84 Sister Gertrude Conway
85 Sister Grace Mary
86 Sister Helen Yott
87 Sister Marion Denise
88 Sister Marguerite
89 Sister Jean Elizabeth
90 Sister Margaret Henry
91 Sister Mary Polworth
92 Sister June
93 Sister Madonna Therese
94 Sister Michele Toomey
95 Sister Elaine Yandow
96 Sister Patricia Agan
97 Sister Shirley Davis
98 Sister Judith Levins
99 Sister Mary Harvey
100 Sister M. Carmelita
101 Sister Margaret McDevitt
102 Sister Miriam Francis
103 Sister Sheila Daly
104 Sister M. Caroline
105 ~~Sister Geraldine White~~ 1974
106 Sister William Joseph
107 ~~Sister Patricia Cummings~~ 1974
108 Sister Elizabeth O'Neill
109 ~~Sister~~ Michele Sears 1974
110 Sister Patricia Dolan
111 Sister Debra Pratt